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Opposition over housing plan that would breach gap between town and villages

Homes 'would cut the divide'



Banbury
Town
Council
leader
Kieron
Mallon

Report: Oliver Evans

PLANS to build 150 homes to the south of Banbury will shatter the symbolic divide between the town and villages, it has been warned. Barwood Development

Securities has proposed the homes for a field south of the historic Salt Way path, part of Crouch Farm, off

Bloxham Road. Residents and civic leaders fear the plan will narrow the gap between Banbury, Bloxham and Bodicote.

Banbury Civic Society chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "It breaches Salt Way, which everybody has said should never happen."

"The residents of Bloxham are unhappy about the idea of Banbury creeping towards them."

But he said it might be "very difficult" to throw out the plan, as Cherwell District Council has yet to agree where it will allow homes to be built in the next 15 years.

Barwood spokesman Sam Dorrian said some sites in the core strategy plan – which does not include Crouch Farm – hadn't been developed because of the economic downturn.

This backed its case, he said, along with confirmation this month that the council is not on course to meet Government targets for new homes.

He said: "Our proposals have been developed to address the housing need of Banbury."

He said 30 per cent of homes would be affordable, the site was "well contained" and traffic concerns would be addressed.

Cash would be given for schools, facilities and infrastructure, he said.

But Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said: "Any

speculative development that is put forward around Banbury should be strenuously opposed."

Lansdown Close resident Harry Barrett, whose home backs on to the proposed site, said he retired from London three years ago because of ill health.

The former publishing firm director, 59, said: "The main concern is we wouldn't look out on the countryside any more."

"This was the only property in Banbury we could find that looks out on to the countryside."

Neighbour and mum-of-two Louise Gardner said: "It is bad enough trying to get out on to Bloxham Road now. The scheme could add another 300 cars to the local traffic."

Another resident said: "If they give permission to the new homes, more development could follow, all the way to Bodicote."

But Anne Dancer, 71, who lives opposite, backed the plans if a roundabout was put on Bloxham Road for the new homes.

She said: "I am not a NIMBY. You have to expand somewhere."

A planning application will be submitted in the New Year to go before Cherwell District Council planners.



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Fire heroes are hailed

A FATHER and son, who rescued a trapped driver from his burning car, have been hailed as lifesavers.

Builders Michael Kennedy Snr and Jnr were driving to work when they saw a 67-year-old man's silver Volkswagen Golf hit a tree and catch fire on the A3400, just outside Chipping Norton.

With smoke billowing from the bonnet and the driver trapped and drifting in and out of consciousness, they knew they only had a few moments to act. They freed the man just before the entire car caught fire. This week fire service watch manager David Bray nominated the pair for a Chief Fire Officer's Commendation and paid tribute to their bravery.

Mr Kennedy Jnr, 37, said: "We drove past it and I noticed there was smoke coming out from the engine. He was trapped.

"We couldn't get his door open so we tried to get in on the passenger side. Then the fire came up the front of the window, so we had to try to wind the seat back as far as it would go and my dad was trying to free his legs and feet from the footwell.

"It was getting close – we probably had another minute and that would have been it.

"When we pulled him out we got him about 15 yards up the road and then the car just went up. It was pretty nasty. It didn't half give us a shock."

The rescued motorist was said to be in a serious but stable condition at the John Radcliffe Hospital, where he is being treated for suspected neck, back and facial injuries.



Heroes: Michael Kennedy Snr and Jnr

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Dial-a-Ride delight as bus service is ended

RESIDENTS in Claydon, Cropredy, Great Bourton and Little Bourton have been thrown a lifeline with the start of a new bus service. Oxfordshire County Council has donated £15,000 towards a Dial-a-Ride service, which will visit the villages on request. The villages were left without a regular bus service after the 200 Stagecoach route to Banbury ended this month. It had been diverted through the villages when the A361 closed in March for flood defence work. This work has now finished. Stagecoach said it could not continue to send the bus through the villages as it would hit punctuality. This cut Cropredy's Monday-to-Saturday services from 12 to two.

Concessionary travel pass holders can use the new countyConnect services free. The service operates in Banbury and South Northamptonshire thanks to a deal between the county council and Northamptonshire County Council. The buses have been designed to cater for elderly and disabled people. For information call 0845 456 4474 or see the website: county-connect.co.uk

£100,000 plan to install machines at the Horton Dialysis joy for campaign couple

KIDNEY dialysis patients from north Oxfordshire have been promised they will no longer have to trek to Oxford for treatment from April. Hospital bosses this week confirmed they plan to have five dialysis machines installed in a new £100,000 unit at Banbury's Horton General Hospital in just over three months. The machines will serve 26 patients who currently face long journeys to Oxford's

By Oliver Evans

Churchill Hospital. Two dialysis nurses will be recruited.

Banbury resident Steven Berry — whose wife, Miranda, launched a campaign for the unit for north Oxfordshire — said he had travelled the equivalent of Australia and back five times over his 15 years visiting the Churchill.

The 53-year-old Kenilworth Way resident said: "It is brilliant. It is excellent news.

"The hospital is only a ten-minute walk away. I will be able to do things I couldn't do before. I can spend time in the garden or go shopping."

Mr Berry has nephrotic syndrome, a disease that means his blood cannot regulate fluid throughout his body.

Mrs Berry, his wife of 35

years, said: "It will give him more independence and free up more of his time. This will make a huge difference."

She said of her two-year campaign: "I saw the effect it was having on Steven, he was washed out and not very happy. I thought 'he can't go on like this'."

The unit will take patients from Chipping Norton up to Brackley.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust said the service had "long been an aim".

Horton director Mike Fleming said: "I am delighted for local patients and their families who will benefit from this new unit.

"It is predicted that the need for dialysis services will expand in future and so we have planned the location so that it can be expanded further in the future."



Miranda and Steven Berry

News in brief

HOOK Norton Parish Council is expected to officially oppose plans for 70 homes in the village. Chairman David Shepley-Cuthbert said a public meeting this month made it clear most residents were against the Taylor Wimpey plan for Land North Of The Bourne and adjoining Bourne Lane. The council will write to Cherwell District Council, which has the final say on the plans.

AN article in the December 8 edition of the *Banbury Cake* stated that a plan for a wind-monitoring mast north of Hanwell had been approved by Cherwell District Council's planning committee. The committee in fact refused the application at its meeting on December 1. We apologise for the error.

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Neglect trial

A MAN has appeared in court charged in connection with the death of his young son.

Taylor Mason died from his injuries in November 2010. The 22-month-old boy's father, Craig Mason, appeared at Oxford Crown Court and denied a charge of wilfully assaulting, ill-treating, neglecting, or abandoning a child.

The 31-year-old, of Stuart Road, Brackley, will stand trial on May 14.

Burglaries

A MAN aged 59 has admitted carrying out 88 burglaries.

William Vinson appeared at Oxford Crown Court and admitted 11 counts of burglary and asked for a further 77 to be taken into consideration.

Vinson, of Cotswold Terrace, Chipping Norton was remanded in custody to be sentenced on January 13.



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News in brief

FIREFIGHTERS rescued a woman from a car following a three-vehicle crash on the B4100 at Souldern, between Bicester and Banbury. They used hydraulic cutting equipment to release the woman, who was taken to the Horton General Hospital. Banbury with suspected back injuries. Four other people suffered minor injuries in the crash, which happened just before 7.30pm on Friday.

AN oil painting expected to raise £3,000 to £5,000 at a town auction house went under the hammer for £21,000. The late 17th-century or early 18th-century Dutch portrait of a man drinking from a goblet of wine was sold at Holloway's Auctioneers in Parsons Street. Internet bidders pushed the price up beyond its estimate. Company principal Nick Williams said: "It seems two people thought they knew who the artist was and were determined to buy the painting."

Plans could create 1,500 jobs 'Gateway' scheme is submitted

PLANS for two major developments by the M40, which could create 1,500 jobs, have been submitted to planners.

A major retail park would be built on the site of Prodrive, near Junction 11, under plans submitted to Cherwell District Council.

And another application proposes six industrial or manufacturing units off nearby Overthorpe Road, on the Banbury side of the motorway.

The "Banbury Gateway" retail development is set to include a Marks & Spencer and Next and would create 500 jobs, developers said.

Prodrive, one of the town's largest employers, would move to a purpose-built HQ at the former Hella car lighting factory.

Seven further units and three or four food and drink outlets, served by a shuttle bus service to the town centre,

By Oliver Evans

would also be provided. Parking would be free at the site, at the Wildmere industrial estate.

If successful, Prodrive would begin to relocate next summer and the retail park would open in 2014.

Prodrive spokesman Ben Sayer said LxB Retail Properties Plc Group's plan "would become the new gateway to Banbury, drawing people to the town from far afield".

The second plan, by Barwood Developments Ltd, would provide about 1,000 jobs, said Peter Frampton, the planning consultant for the scheme.

He said of the 27-hectare scheme, for greenfield land: "This is really good news at the end of 2011." It would open by the summer if permission is given.



The original gates at the Alcan factory in Southam Road, Banbury

Historic factory's gates could be re-installed

THE last intact feature of Banbury's Northern Aluminium Co factory is set to be restored to its former glory, as part of plans to preserve the history of the site.

A planning application has been submitted to re-install gates erected in 1931 at the Southam Road factory, later operated as Alcan.

The listed gates had been removed in recent years over concerns they would be damaged by lorries.

And a Grade II-listed art deco office building erected in

1936 and 1937 and a gatehouse will also be refurbished under the plans.

A listed memorial garden and war memorial for workers killed in the Second World War would also be restored.

The factory was famed for producing 60 per cent of metal for planes during the war's early years.

At its height, the factory employed 3,000 people and, such was its importance in the war effort, was covered in camouflage and a plywood decoy built to fool Nazi

bombers. Cherwell District Council have given planning permission for industrial units at the site, which led to most buildings being demolished.

Banbury Civic Society, which raised concerns that the industrial units would overwhelm the listed features, welcomed the latest application.

Chairman Rob Kinchin-Smith said: "We are delighted that care has been taken to over conservation."

The council will make a final decision this week.



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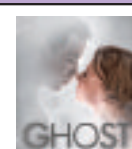
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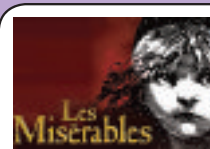
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MP's claim over front-line cuts

BANBURY MP Tony Baldry told the House of Commons some councils were cutting front-line services "simply to make a political point".

The Conservative MP said Tory-run Oxfordshire County Council was keeping its 43 branches open. The council first proposed cutting all funding for 20 but backed down after an outcry.

He said: "Is not the reasonable inference that some local authorities have elected to make deep cuts in front-line services simply to make a

political point and that it is perfectly possible, if local authorities put their minds to it, to keep libraries open?"

He was speaking at a debate started by Labour's Kate Green, who asked how Government cash cuts to councils were hitting libraries.

Culture minister and Wantage MP Ed Vaizey told the debate that councils and the Government were "strongly committed" to libraries.

Robber lay in wait in a Banbury park

Night-time mugger jailed

A ROBBER, who hid in wait in an Oxfordshire park before jumping out on people on their way home from nights out, has been jailed.

Lukasz Wozniak was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last week after admitting two counts of robbery.

The 27-year-old was aided by accomplices, who have yet to be caught, as he robbed two victims in People's Park, Banbury.

The first incident took place on August 6 when Steven Hawtin was walking home from the pub at about 11.30pm.

Prosecutor Jonathan Stone said the victim was struck twice in his face, knocking his glasses off.

He said: "He ended up on the ground and, as he was lying there, the men were behind him and he was kicked in the back before they ran off."

"He got up and rang his wife. He was scrambling around looking for his glasses and to check his pockets. It was at that

By Thom Airs

point he noticed his wallet was missing."

On September 11, Wozniak was again part of a group who robbed a man in the park, this time at about 4am.

Joshua Glanville was tackled to ground after trying to escape by

running away from two men.

Mr Stone said he received "punches and blows to the head and body" and his BlackBerry phone and watch were taken.

The watch was later found at Wozniak's address in Reid Close, Banbury, and the defendant's DNA linked him to the first attack.

The court heard Wozniak worked at a factory in the town, having come to Britain from Poland six years ago.

He has four convictions for eight previous offences, including shoplifting and driving without insurance or tax.

Recorder Andrew McCooey jailed Wozniak for 32 months, saying: "Both of these victims were attacked by you and some other person late at night and robbed of possessions."

"They were punched and kicked on the ground and it must have been a completely terrifying experience for these two innocent men."



Lukasz Wozniak

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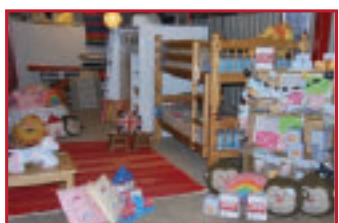


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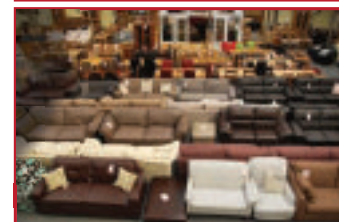
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'Super-head' sent in to turn round school

By Oliver Evans

Change at top follows damning report about standards from Ofsted

A "SUPER head" brought in to turn around two failing Oxford primary schools has been tasked with helping another given a damning report by inspectors.

Martin Lester has been appointed as acting headteacher of Middle Barton Primary School after Ofsted put it in special measures two years after it had rated it as good.

An Ofsted inspector this week said the school had suffered from poor leadership, "turmoil" among staff and a drop in pupil numbers.

However, improvements are being made, the inspector said.

The latest Ofsted report says "tensions between members of staff distracted attention away from teaching and learning and caused morale to dip considerably".

Senior staff and governors had been "insufficiently rigorous" monitoring standards, "leading to an over-optimistic view of performance".

It said: "Until recently, leaders and the governing body were not aware of the extent of the school's difficulties."

Governors are undergoing training so they can "play a stronger role in challenging the school" it said.

The school has 90 pupils, compared with 140 in 2000. Three teachers were absent and one class was taught by a supply teacher, Ofsted said. It said pupils did not make as much progress as they should, particularly in maths, and provision for special needs and disabled pupils was "ad hoc".

Ofsted criticised "superficial" questioning of pupils and said inspectors saw a teacher fail to correct pupils who misspelled literacy on the front of their books.

Efforts are being made to improve the school and while these have had a "positive impact" on atmosphere, more needed to be done, it said.

Mr Lester started work on November 30, replacing headteacher Lynn Barnes.

Mr Barnes was not available for comment, while the school refused to contact the chairman of governors.

Mr Lester previously advised St Christopher's Primary School in Cowley, which was put into special measures in May 2009. It

came out of special measures in March. He was then made acting head at Littlemore's John Henry Newman Primary School, which was put into special measures in July last year. It is now making "good" progress.

Steeple Barton parish councillor John Bews said some parents had taken their children out of the school and its problems were a "tragedy" for the village.

But he said: "We are very positive that now this situation has got to the state that it is, things will start to improve."

Oxfordshire County Council spokesman Paul Smith said Mr Lester would make changes in "direct response" to the report.

He said: "These are the areas that the school has now started to address at the start of its journey to move away from being in special measures."

He said of Mrs Barnes: "These are ongoing personnel matters which we are not able to comment on at this stage."

Of the 5,727 schools inspected this year, 39 previously 'good' were placed in special measures.

Nursery class scores high marks with inspection team

THE nursery class at Frank Wise School has been described as outstanding by Ofsted inspectors.

In her report, inspector Marilyn Joy said: "Children flourish in a nurturing environment where they receive excellent support to help them reach their individual potential."

The special school, which is also rated outstanding as a whole by Ofsted, provides an education for children with a statement of

special educational needs. There are currently two children in the nursery class.

THE headteacher of Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Catherine Weaver, is retiring.

She will step down after five years in the post and 22 years teaching at the Addison Road school.

Deputy headteacher Fraser Long has been appointed to succeed her at the helm of the school.



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Troubled holiday company's axe falls, but misses local branches

Reprieve for travel staff



STAFF at eight county branches of troubled holiday firm Thomas Cook this week breathed a sigh of relief after learning their jobs were not going to be axed.

The company said it would close 178 UK stores over the next two years as it battles to turn around its ailing business, with 115 of those to be shut

By Sam McGregor

following staff consultations by March.

But about 40 staff at branches in Banbury, as well as Bicester, Cowley, Witney, Abingdon, Didcot, Wantage and Carterton are not among those affected by the immediate closure programme.

Spokesman Emma Knight said: "For the remaining 63 stores it will be business as usual and they will reviewed on a case-by-case basis looking at the profitability of the store, its proximity to other stores and when leases come up for renewal.

"We have not started identifying those stores at this stage."

The announcement came as the group revealed it had slumped to a £398m pre-tax loss in the year to September 30, compared with a £42m profit in the previous year, after it was hit by poor trading in the UK and the Arab Spring put tourists off travelling to Tunisia and Egypt.

The company, which sells more than 22 million holidays a year in the UK, delayed its results last month as it revealed it had gone back to its lenders to ask for an additional £100m lifeline.

Its shares slumped 75 per cent in one day amid fears for its survival, but the 170-year-old company claims it is now on a sound financial footing.

Interim chief executive Sam

Weihagen said: "Customers have been very supportive in recent weeks and are continuing to book with Thomas Cook."

"Bookings outside the UK were broadly unaffected by news of our refinancing and in the UK bookings have recovered well."

Manuel Cortes, general secretary of the Transport Salaried Staffs Association, said: "This is deeply disappointing news for Thomas Cook staff, especially at this time of the year in the run-up to Christmas."

"We want immediate talks with the company's chief executive to see just what we can do to mitigate the impact of this announcement on our members."

The news came as it emerged the number of people out of work and claiming jobseeker's allowance in Oxfordshire fell by 113 in November to 7,612 or 1.8 per cent of the working age population, the lowest since June. The figure is a 0.1 per cent increase on the same month last year.

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Clawing back lost cash with free gig

MUSICIANS gave their time free to help a charity left out of pocket by the collapse of Harvest festival recoup some of its losses.

Commotion lost £7,000 through the collapse of the West Oxfordshire festival, which was held on Blur bassist Alex James' Kingham farm in September.

The charity had been running its own fundraising festival for seven years, distributing profits to music education and children's charities, and was asked to run the Friday night line-up at Harvest.

But although Commotion got half its fee up front from Harvest organisers Big Wheel Promotions, when the firm collapsed with £1m debts, the charity never received its remaining cash.

On Friday night, it staged Commotion Rewired, starring The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band, at Chipping Norton Town Hall, to try to reclaim some of its money.

Organiser Kate Woodward said: "Commotion has always been a 100 per cent charitable event.

Everybody running it is a volunteer, and bands play for us as charitably as they are able to.

"People like the Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band have been hugely supportive, because they value what we do in taking all of the commercialism out of music."

Mr James was among the charity's supporters in the audience for the event and introduced The Original Rabbit Foot Spasm Band.

Mrs Woodward added: "Alex said he was not taught music as a child, and so he really values what we do.

"He said when he looked down the list of creditors, he was horrified to see us there."



Blur bassist Alex James

Police seek witnesses to street brawl

TWO men were taken to hospital after violence erupted outside a Banbury nightclub.

Up to 20 people were involved in a fight outside the Sound Exchange, in High Street, at 5.45am on Saturday, December 10.

Police said two men were punched to the ground and became unconscious and a third was "violently kicked" in the head.

Two men were taken to The Horton Hospital, in Oxford Road, and one of them was kept in for observation.

Detective Inspector Steve Duffy, pictured, urged anyone who saw the incident to come forward.

He said: "I have viewed the CCTV footage of this incident and I'm shocked to see the town centre at 5.45am resembling the High Street on a Saturday evening.

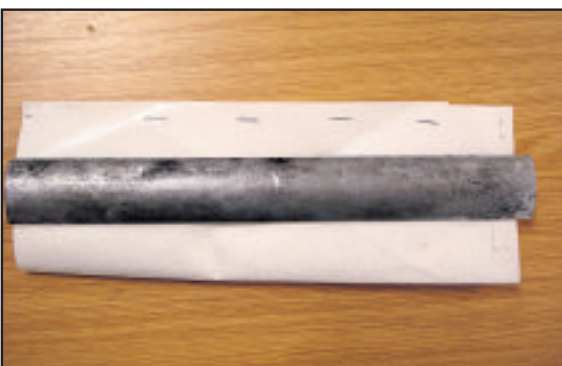
"There were obviously many people wandering around who would have been in licensed premises during the night, and there were people on their way to work, so I'm confident this incident was very well witnessed.

"I would appeal to people who were present to come forward and help us with our inquiries."

He said in light of the incident police patrols would be stepped up. Anyone with information should call Banbury police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Money thieves foiled



The skimming device, found at a Co-op supermarket in Banbury

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after a skimming device was found on a cash machine at the Co-op supermarket in Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, for the fourth time in less than two months.

A customer found a foot-long piece of silver metal that had been placed over the cash dispenser.

It works by collecting cash dispensed by the machine. Users think the machine has not paid out and the thieves remove the strip to recover the banknotes.

Officers want to speak to a blonde woman, who was wearing a brown coat and carried a black handbag, who used the cash machine at 11.58am on Wednesday, December 7.

They also want to speak to the man who found the device at 12.05pm on the same day, and handed it to staff at the shop. He is described as tall, with a shaved head, wearing blue jeans and a hooded coat.

Skimming devices were also found attached to the same machine on October

By Sam McGregor

30, November 7 and 9.

There have been several similar incidents in Banbury in the past two months.

Alldays, in Burchester Place, was targeted on November 9; a skimming device was used at the Co-op, also in Burchester Place, on November 2, 8 and 29, and Barclays Bank, in Bridge Street, on November 8, 10 and 29.

Two men, both aged 24, from Banbury, have been arrested in connection with the Ruscote Avenue offence on December 7, and released on bail.

A 15-year-old boy has been charged with four counts of fraud over incidents at the Co-op in Burchester Place, Alldays, in Burchester Place, both November 8; the Co-op, in Ruscote Arcade, on November 9, and Barclays Bank, in Horsefair, on November 10.



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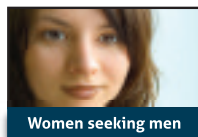
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Women seeking men

MEMORIES TO COME Honest, sincere, open minded Banbury female, 31, enjoys romantic walks by the sea, meals, cooking, singing & karaoke, poetry and writing short stories, wlm a nice man to share interest together. **Box 114566**

HOPEFULLY YOURS Voluptuous female, 31, short hair, seeking a good looking, fun guy, 24-57 for laughter and romance. **Swindon. Box 104678 E**

JOIN HANDS Sweet Swindon single mum, 39, loves reading, cinema, dining and more, looking for friends and maybe someone special. **Box 104988**

LOVE TO TALK Dark-eyed Wilts girl, 42, 5'2", enjoys nights out, movies and more, searching for an interesting gent, to cosy times and conversation. **Box 113059 E**

SOUND GOOD? Fun, curvy female, 42, brunette, green eyes, looking for genuine, loving guy. I am caring person with gosh. Likes dining in and out animals. **Box 852093 E**

SOMEONE TO TRUST Slim female, 43, 5'4", no ties, enjoys reading, music, good food and the coast, searching for a kind, tall, educated gent, for a loving and lasting relationship. **Box 851976 E**

STARTING FRESH Separated, caring Witney woman, 43, honest, GSOH, trustworthy, enjoys family life, swimming, music, theatre, cinema and walks, seeking a similar man, kind and sincere, for dates & laughter. **Box 116588 E**

FOR STARTERS... Loving, caring Oxford mum, 43, genuine, active, attractive, enjoys theatre, cinema, walks and nights in, seeking a similar family man, honest, funny and kind for sharing good times with. **Box 114046 E**

NOTHING MORE TO ASK For 43yr old short haired lady, medium build, Wallingford based, loves family life, animals, keeping fit, gardening, cooking, driving, seeks honest, caring man for tlc. **Box 107602 E**

LIFE IS TO SHARE Single, genuine Oxfordshire woman, 45, GSOH, slim/med build, N/5, 5'5", enjoys days out, music, films and walking, seeking a special man, kind, loving and fun, for a long term relationship. **Box 115621 E**

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KEEP UP WITH ME! Understanding, easygoing Oxford woman, 46, lively, slim, 5'6", enjoys keeping fit, sport and socialising, seeking a similar man, open-minded, funny and caring, for friendship and more. **Box 114360 E**

OUR MOMENT Lively, hardworking, petite woman, 47, likes socialising, city pubs, eating out, seeks similar guy, for fun, laughter & hopefully more. **Oxford. Box 102616**

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed Trowbridge female, 47, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. **Box 109958 E**

MORE THAN WORDS Blonde, brown-eyed Swindon girl, 48, 5', cuddly, shy, quiet and demure, with a GSOH, looking for an honest man. **Box 110968**

SHARING THE GOOD TIMES Cheerful female, 48, blonde, hazel eyes, medium build, live & work in Swindon, enjoys travelling, dining in & out, wlm spontaneous guy, for good times. **Box 101568**

NEW DIRECTION Swindon girl, 48, 5'5", med build, blonde, enjoys travel, skiing, town life and socialising, searching for an equally interesting man. **Box 108306 E**

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LOTS OF FUN Blonde, cuddly female, 48, 5ft, pastry chef, with children, searching for a youthful chap, to share life with. **Box 113078 E**

THIS & MORE Loving, caring and voluptuous Oxford lady, youthful 51, cheerful and hard-working, looking for my knight in shining armour, to restore my faith in men, and share friendship and outings. **Box 115951 E**

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Separated female, 53, gosh, likes going out, socialising, music, seeks friendly male, 38-48 for good times and more. **Swindon. Box 104377 E**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 54, friendly, love life, travelling and loyal, nature of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Box 110895**

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 54, kind, loving, seeks tall male, for romance, companionship & lots of more. **Bicester. Box 110670 E**

MEANINGFUL TIMES Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 56, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. **Box 117215 E**

JUST THE TWO OF US Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, seeking a friend/soulmate to go ahead with me in life. **Box 463351 E**

LOOKING TO START AGAIN Non smoking petite lady, 55, seeking non-smoking man who's not overweight, and likes pubs, restaurants and quiet drives. **Wantage. Box 465651**

COUNTRY LADY Sporty lady, 58, widowed with grown up family, enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent for friendship and romance. **Box 100171 E**

HAND IN HAND Widow lady, 59, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeks placid gent to enjoy laughter and more. **Witney. Box 100300**

NICE COMPANY Attractive female, 59, 5'6", size 12, no ties, N/5, enjoys socialising, travelling, seeks smart guy with no ties, to enjoy life with. **Bicester. Box 100589**

A TRUE FRIEND Separated, easygoing female, 59, likes cooking, evenings in/out, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Witney. Box 100451**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 59, med build, 5'6", GSOH, N/5, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/5 and caring for dates & more. **Box 116161 E**

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 50s, 5ft6, slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. **Box 466487**

OUTGOING & ENTHUSIASTIC? Oxfordshire widow, 58, slender, 5ft6, dark hair, sociable and caring, well travelled, attractive, seeking guy who's caring, professional and considerate. **Box 467516**

ENJOY LIFE Retired, attractive, slim Oxfordshire lady, 60, searching for a gent, 55-60, to share happy times, friendship and maybe more. **Box 113207 E**

FUN TO BE WITH Attractive lady, 52", 58, very social and enjoys nights out and in, weekends away looking for a man with a gosh who is fun. **Box 458867**

STRICTLY BALLROOM Dance-loving lady, 51, 5'6", searching for a man, 5'10", N/5, who can jive, for friendship and ballroom dancing. **Box 111203**

SOMETHING MEANINGFUL Outgoing, happy Witney female, 62, tall and slim, many interest such as reading, the countryside, music and dancing, would like to meet a friendly chap for long term relationship. **Box 116615**

THINKING OF THE FUTURE Easygoing Aylesbury female, 63, 5'2", grown up children, would like to meet a decent gent 60-65, who is a N/5 trustworthy and honest, to enjoy life together. **Box 115929 E**

CHATS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being out alone, walking and gardening. **Marlborough/Wiltshire. Box 112241 E**

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 65, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversation and to laugh together. **Box 115447 E**

ONE PIECE MISSING Young, attractive 64yr old Witney lady, non smoker, likes travelling, cooking, playing bowls, seeking a tall gentleman up to 66, for a long term relationship. **Box 113881**

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE Widow lady, 64, brown hair, blue/grey eyes, likes walking, reading, watching films, family life, gardening, seeks nice gent, for ltr. **Witney. Box 105525**

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 64, 5'5", works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent, with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. **Box 114628 E**

SO HAPPY TOGETHER Loving, sincere and attractive lady, 65, cuddly, would like to meet a gent who likes country walks, meals out, social drinks and places of interest for companionship. **Box 114914 E**

LEAD THE WAY A modern N/5 Kidlington lady, 68, 5'7", slim build, likes gardening, reading, cooking, cinema and travel, looking for an interesting gentleman to share days out & eating out. **Box 114769 E**

ARE YOU THE LUCKY ONE? Happy go lucky, solvent Banbury lady, 72, still working, likes travel, going out and about, would like to meet a trustworthy chap to enjoy life together. **Box 115637**

GREAT COMPANIONS Widow lady, 72, likes animals, music, theatre, wlm easygoing gent, 60-70 for companionship maybe more. **Box 104917 E**

MY SIMPLE LIFE Sincere female, 77, from Faringdon, likes gardening, walking, cinema, holidays, cooking, wlm a decent gent, for happy times. **Box 109439 E**



Men seeking women

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER Down to earth male, 36, enjoys cycling walking, travelling, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. **Swindon. Box 100773 E**

COUPLE UP WITH ME Tall & athletic, 39, likes eating out, socialising with friends, seeks outgoing female, 28-45 for friendship & romance. **Oxford. Box 104825**

PLENTY OF TLC Loving male, 39, 5'7", usual interests, from Didcot, looking for love and romance. **Box 111253 E**

PERFECT HARMONY Fun loving, easygoing, tactile Witney biker, 40, 6', stocky build, shaven head and goatee, seeks fun loving, cheeky lady to share life with. **Box 108035**

THAT WONDERFUL FEELING Laid back, sporty Woodstock male, 41, likes family life, nights in & out, having a laugh, seeks warm hearted easygoing female, for good company. **Box 114209 E**

SOMEONE TO CLICK WITH Honest, genuine N/5 guy, 42, 6'1", medium build, no ties, lives in Swindon, likes theatre, bowling, meals out, seeks single female, for ltr. **Box 107035 E**

PARTNER UP Interesting white guy, 44, searching for a strong, confident black woman, for company. **Bicester. Box 100111**

IT'LL BE FUN Divorced Oxford male, 45, 5'5", short hair, green eyes, works full time, enjoys country walks, playing pool, going to the pub, seeking a similar active woman, to enjoy good times together. **Box 116301 E**

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO Happy, active Abingdon man, 45, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. **Box 114348 E**

WE CAN BE HAPPY Fun male, 44, likes meals out, keeping fit, weekends away, 5ft9in, seeking friendship maybe more with someone special. **Banbury. Box 854670 E**

HOPE FOR US Youthful, blue-eyed male, 46, enjoys the gym and good times, searching for a nice, honest woman. **Oxford. Box 100657 E**

MAKE THE MOST OF IT Cheerful, vibrant chap, 46, likes the usual things, seeks tactile female, for a long term relationship. **Banbury. Box 100450**

GIVE LOVE A TRY Hardworking male, 49, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice, young lady for friendship leading to more. **Oxford. Box 100302 E**

SHARE AS A COUPLE Quiet-natured Oxfordshire male, 49, searching for a lady, to share night out, pubs and company. **Box 110748 E**

MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE Honest, caring male, 50, likes diy, gardening, keeping fit, animals, seeks honest, caring female for friendship, leading to more. **Oxford/Berkshire. Box 112137 E**

MORE IN TIME Friendly male, 50, 5'5", blue eyes, works with horses, seeking a loving female, 40-60 to settle down with. **Box 104741 E**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Easygoing, active Kidlington male, 50, likes meals out, cinema, country walks and all the things couples do together, looking for that special female, to spend some quality time with. **Box 114479 E**

LOTS OF AFFECTION Divorced, caring, trustworthy male, 51, loves the country life, pubs, history, DIY, motor sports, wlm sincere woman, to settle down with. **Wallingford. Box 102120 E**

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard working Oxford guy, 53, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wines, F1 racing, would like to meet a similar woman to share life with. **Box 115773 E**

IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN Genuine bloke, 54, from Didcot, happy go lucky person, looking for a young at heart lady to enjoy life with. **Box 111665 E**

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young to heart male, 54, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre, clubs and seeks caring female, for happy times. **Box 107632**

LOVE THE COMPANY Down to earth male, 55, 5'10", gosh, many interest, seeks female, 35-60 any race, for fun, laughter and more. **Banbury. Box 104545**

MAKE THE CONNECTION Outgoing widower, 56, smoker, N/5, lives in Oxford, looking for a nice female for good times and more. **Box 108952**

THE HONEST KIND Easygoing male, 56, from Oxford, likes cinema, sports, nights in, seeks female for friendship leading to more. **Box 110649**

SPECIAL EVENINGS Upbeat Witney male, 57, likes sports, horse racing and meeting people, looking for a woman with a good sense of humour, 40-50, for friendship hopefully leading to more. **Box 116553 E**

A FRESH START Country loving man, 57, 6ft tall, blue eyes, average build. I'd love to meet a nice lady to go out with and have fun again. **Abingdon. Box 463069 E**

ON THE CARDS Creative, professional male, 58, 5'11", likes gardening, cooking, painting and France, searching for a N/5 woman, for friendship and long-term love. **Witney/Oxon. Box 102553**

PASSION FLOWER Young looking 58yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out, socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for LTR. **Wallingford. Box 101127 E**

A NEW START Caring, romantic Bicester male, 59, loves animals, car boot sales and walking, seeking for female 46-56 to share life and love with. **Box 117428**

STARTING TOGETHER Country loving Wallingford widower, 59, 6', grown up children, likes sports, theatre, meals out, 60s music, cooking, would like to meet an easygoing sociable lady, for company and more. **Box 114484 E**

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CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 59, 5'10", own house/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. **Box 107964**

STABLE RELATIONSHIP SOUGHT Easygoing, non-smoking, divorced Abingdon man, 60, 5'10", average build, would to meet a nice lady, to share good times together. **Box 114301 E**

START SOMETHING SPECIAL Active male, 60, 5'7", blue eyes, gosh, likes cinema, theatre, days out, country pubs, meals out, seeks similar female, 54-59 for company & more. **Northampton. Box 104253 E**

BETTER WITH COMPANY Tactile male, 60, 5'7", wears glasses, likes days out, country walks, evenings in, enjoying for a young lady, 50-60 to enjoy these good times together. **Northampton. Box 104324 E**

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Genuine male, 50s, seeks chatty female friend to share days out, meals out & cinema. **Abingdon. Box 825507 E**

READY TO MOVE ON Young, caring Didcot male, 62, 5'9", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. **Box 117430 E**

SAIL AWAY WITH ME Young head, I'm a caring guy, 5ft9, full head of hair! I live in Didcot and enjoy the sea, reading, boats. **WLTm similar lady. Box 468137 E**

MORE IN TIME Self-employed Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. **Box 109413 E**

MAKE A FRIEND Looking for friends or maybe more for email, meals out and who knows, but the key word is enjoyment. **Box 851123**

KINDRED SPIRITS Presentable, educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, wlm attractive, vivacious lady. **Oxford. Box 101058 E**

LOOKING FOR LTR Youthful, solvent, active retired businessman, 65, 5'9", 11st, own home and car, loves music, places of interest and experiencing the new, seeking a loving, feminine woman, to share a warmth. **Box 109799**

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS Well preserved male, 65, 5'10", adequate intelligence, passably handsome, active, inquisitive, liberal outlook, wlm bright, youthful lady for loving relationship and interesting times. **Witney. Box 108871**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. **Box 851817 E**

SOUND LIKE US? Blue-eyed Wilts female, 50, size 22, searching for a fun and adventurous woman, for friendship, fun and good times. **Box 116426 E**

THE BRIGHT SIDE Outgoing, friendly Wallingford female, 59, likes swimming, cycling, singing, eating out, places of interest, looking for sociable guys, for friendship laughter and good times. **Box 114488 E**

ALL THIS AND MORE Upbeat Oxford male, 54, enjoys pubs, walking, meeting new friends, would like to meet a nice friendly guy 25-45, who enjoys good company and good times. **Box 115505 E**



Men seeking men

ON THE WAY TO YOU Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 64, enjoys walking, watching tv, cosy nights in, reading & socialising, seeks friendly active chap, 60-70 for company and more. **Box 104839 E**

LET'S EXCHANGE Male seeking male. I'm 65yrs old, medium build, 5ft9, easy going and affectionate. Looking for someone similar, Abingdon area. **Box 453567 E**

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CAKE Leisure

banburycake.co.uk/leisure

On the trail of Moriarty again

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (12A, 128 mins)
Action/Comedy/Romance. Robert Downey Jr, Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Jared Harris, Stephen Fry, Paul Anderson, Rachel McAdams, Geraldine James, Eddie Marsan. Director: Guy Ritchie.

The sleuthing is far from elementary in Guy Ritchie's action-packed sequel to his 2009 reinvention of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective.

The dense narrative taxes what Hercule Poirot referred to as the "little grey cells", connecting minuscule clues in Sherlock Holmes's mind through high-speed flashbacks in a style that will be familiar to fans of the TV series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

Sinewy plot strands will probably tie younger audiences in knots.

For all its intellectual rigour, *A Game Of Shadows* often feels like a series of ambitious action set-pieces which have been bolted together by screenwriters Michele Mulroney and Kieran Mulroney.

Explosions and stunts are orchestrated at breakneck speed by Ritchie, whose repeated use of slow-motion bloats the film's cumbersome running time.

Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) has cut a swathe through the criminal fraternity of late 19th century London aided by trusty sidekick Dr John Watson (Jude Law), who is bidding farewell to crime-solving to marry Mary Morstan (Kelly Reilly).

Newspapers are filled with shocking headlines about anarchist bombings in Strasbourg and Vienna, the apparent overdose of a Chinese opium dealer and the death of an American steel magnate.

Holmes deduces these events are linked to Professor James Moriarty (Jared Harris) and the sleuth persuades Watson to join him on one final globe-trotting adventure.

En route, the double-act encounters Gypsy fortune teller Sim (Noomi Rapace) and Holmes's brother Mycroft (Stephen Fry), who is well-connected in the British government.

A bruising battle of wits with Moriarty becomes personal when the diabolical professor promises to make Watson and his new wife suffer for Holmes's meddling.

"When two objects collide, there is always damage of a collateral nature," threatens the scholar, who is protected by a sharp-shooting lackey, Colonel Sebastian Moran (Paul

Anderson).

Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows is a sporadically entertaining jaunt.

Downey Jr and Law ease back into familiar roles as the quixotic genius and his strait-laced foil. Rapace is suitably feisty in her first English-speaking role and Harris chews on every syllable with menacing intent.

Eddie Marsan and Geraldine James reprise their roles as Inspector Lestrade and long-suffering landlady Mrs Hudson respectively, but neither is afforded sufficient screen time to make an impact.

There are some sparkling comic interludes, such as when Sim arranges a horse for Holmes to chase after Moriarty and the sleuth explains that he is averse to four-legged travel because: "They're dangerous at both ends and crafty in the middle."

Fry is a delight too, as pompous, pontificating Mycroft, including a hysterical sequence reminiscent of Austin Powers, which sees Holmes's sibling wander naked about his home, sparing his blushes (and ours) with strategically placed furnishings.

We can just thank heaven for small vases.



Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: Alvin and The Chipmunks - Chipwrecked, U, Fri-Christmas Eve, 12.15pm, 2.15, 4.30pm, Fri 6.30pm, Boxing Day-Thu 1.15, 3.30pm, Tue-Thu 11am. Arthur Christmas, U (3-D) Fri-Sat 10am. New Year's Eve, 12A, Fri 8.45pm, Sat 7pm. Puss in Boots, U, Fri, Tue-Thu 10.30am*, Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 3pm*, Tue-Thu 10.30am*; (3-D) Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 12.45pm*. Sherlock Holmes - A Game of Shadows, 12A, Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 5.45pm, 8.30pm (subtitled BH Tue 8.30pm). Mission Impossible - Ghost Protocol, 12a, Boxing Day-Thu 5*, 8pm*.

Odeon Kids: Rio, U, Christmas Eve doors 10.20am, programme 10.30am, ends 12.40pm* (audio-described). Box office: 0871 2244007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: There will be no films this coming week. Next film will be Jan 13, We Need To Talk About Kevin. Box office: 01608 642350 (Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat 10-2pm).

Odeon, George Street, Oxford: Call cinema for information. Box office: 0871 2244007.

Odeon, Magdalen Street, Oxford: Call cinema for information. Box office: 0871 2244007.

Phoenix Picture House, Walton Street, Oxford: Call cinema for information. Box office: 0871 704 2062.

Vue Cinema, Grenoble Road, Oxford: Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol, 12A, Boxing Day-Thu 1.30, 4.30, 5.30, 7.30, 8.30, 10.30pm, Boxing Day, Wed 11.30pm. The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, 18, Boxing Day-Thu 11am, 2.20, 5.40, 8pm, Boxing

Day, Wed 11.20pm (all audio-described; subtitled, Tue 9pm). Sherlock Holmes - A Game of Shadows, 12A, Fri-Christmas Eve 1.10, 4.10, 5.10, 7.10, 8.10, 10.10pm, Boxing Day, Wed 11.10pm, Boxing Day-Thu 1.10, 4.10, 5.10, 7.10, 8.10, 10.10pm, Boxing Day, Wed 11.10pm. Hugo, U (3-D) Fri-Christmas Eve 11.10am, Boxing Day-Thu 11.40am. Arthur Christmas, U, Fri-Christmas Eve, 9.40am, 12pm, 12.30pm, 2.30, 3, 5, 5.30, 8pm, Fri 10.40pm; (3-D) Fri-Christmas Eve 10.40am, 1, 3.30, 6pm. Puss in Boots, U, Fri-Christmas Eve 8.50am, 11am, 1.10, 3.20, 5.40, 7.50, 10pm, Fri 12am midnight, Boxing Day-Thu 9am, 11.10am, 1.20, 3.20, 5.35, 7.40pm; (3-D) Fri-Christmas Eve 9am, Boxing Day-Thu 9.40am. New Year's Eve, 12A, Fri-Christmas Eve 7.30pm, Fri 10.10pm, Boxing Day-Thu 11.50am, 2.30, 5, 7.50, 10.40pm. Happy Feet II, U, Fri-Christmas Eve 8.45am, 10.50am, 1.15, 3.40, 6.10pm, Boxing Day-Thu 10.30am, 1, 3.10pm. My Week With Marilyn, 15, Fri-Christmas Eve 7.40pm, Fri 10.30pm. The Twilight Saga - Breaking Dawn pt 1, 12A, Fri-Christmas Eve 8.40pm, Fri 11.30pm, Boxing Day-Thu 9.40pm, Boxing Day, Wed 12.10am (midnight). Alvin and the Chipmunks, U, Fri-Christmas Eve 9.30am, 10.30am, 11.50am, 12.50pm, 2, 3.10, 4.10, 7.20pm, Boxing Day-Thu 8.50am, 9.20, 10.50, 11.10, 11.30, 12.50pm, 1.40, 3, 3.40, 5.50pm (all audio-described). Don II, (to be confirmed) (3-D), Fri-Christmas Eve 2.10, 5.10, 8.10pm, Boxing Day, Wed 11.20pm; Boxing Day-Thu 2.10, 5.20, 8.20pm, Fri 11.20pm. Kids AM: The Adventures of TinTin, U, Fri-Christmas Eve, Boxing Day-Thu 10am. Box office: 08712 240240.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

This is one Christmas which is likely to be more alternative than most. You've done a lot of changing and a lot of growing up this year. What you've failed to see though is that so have a lot of your close ones. You're in for some pleasant festive surprises and an offer which is sure to change the course of your life. Ring now for the finer details.



LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You're in the mood for fun and mischief and you don't seem to care who you tread on in order to get what or who you want. This is out of character for a sign such as you and you'd be wise to think before you act or you could run an opportunity in romance this weekend. One you'd previously never even dared dream about. Call now for direction.



TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You've been thinking more about the past recently than you have the present. Come back down to earth and look at the facts instead of listening to the gossip and hearsay which has led to such a dramatic few weeks recently. A surprise visitor around your Christmas table brings novelty and some vital questions for you. Call now for insight.



SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

Friends turn into lovers during this celebratory week for many of you Scorpios. You would also be wise to remember the words that if you think you can you will and if you think you can't you won't. Focus on what's important and not just the tricks that impress so called friends. Ring now to hear why it's vital you prioritise now on.



GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Your need to know the ins and outs of everyone's lives has made it difficult for you to concentrate on your own affairs. Try to though Gemini as you are misreading the signals which a certain person is trying to direct at you. This is one Christmas week where you can afford to read between the lines. Call now for news on a hot new admirer.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

Christmas is always a really important time for you but it seems that this year you can't get all of the people in your life to do what you want them to. There is a compromise, but you are the one that will have to show you're willing to meet them half way, and trust me, it will be well worth it. Ring now for a Crimbo surprise.



CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

A new attraction in your life is making it hard for you to concentrate on anything for any length of time. Do us all a favour Cancer and talk to the face who has obviously had such a dramatic effect on you. Aspects indicate that you are more comparable than you'd dared dream. Call me now so I can tell you about where your fate is leading you.



CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Your element of earth has been making it hard for you to adapt to forced changes which have come into your life. You know you can do anything you set your mind to but you seem to have lost focus of late. Talks with Librans can rectify this fact, so seek them out. Give me a call now for an intriguing idea to fine tune your love life.



LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

The Sun brings out your jealous streak and you may be feeling a little more paranoid than usual. You may also find yourself accusing close ones of things they have not done. Deal with the real personal problem causing such friction. Trust me, there is an answer to that financial dilemma! Call now so I can talk you through your options.



AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

It's easy to think the worst of someone you haven't met, but that is just what you need to avoid over the coming week. Let new faces in your life or that of your close ones tell their own story. Chinese whispers risk making a fool of you if you don't. Ring me now to hear why love and travel go hand in hand for the end of this year.



VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

New attractions make for a very colourful Christmas week. This is also a time which is sure to see you feeling far more confident in your career and about where you are going. Time to distance yourself though from that face you know has been and will continue to use you. Ring me now to hear why Santa has your best gift yet this year.



PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

What do you really want out of your life Pisces? Is it to have a successful personal life or a successful professional life? Why, both of course. To pretend that you have to make a choice is only losing you valuable time to find true happiness. What's needed however is balance. This Christmas week you begin to find it. Ring now for answers.



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CAKE Sport

■ EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Sweet revenge

LATEST TABLES

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington	21	12	5	4	31	21	41
Brackley T	20	12	4	4	43	28	40
AFC Totton	18	12	2	4	41	15	38
Oxford City	20	11	5	4	35	22	38
Chesham U	21	11	5	5	34	22	38
Chippenhams	20	10	4	6	31	22	34
Barwell	22	9	5	8	41	35	32
Stourbridge	16	9	4	3	28	15	31
Cambridge C	21	9	3	9	35	31	30
Banbury Utd	19	8	4	7	28	27	28
St Albans City	22	8	4	10	38	45	28
Redditch Utd	21	8	3	10	19	21	27
Frome T	20	8	3	9	24	29	27
Weymouth	19	7	4	8	29	33	25
Bashley	19	7	4	8	26	32	25
Hitchin T	21	6	5	10	28	32	23
Bedford T	20	6	3	11	29	40	21
Arlesey T	20	5	5	10	19	27	20
Evesham Utd	20	6	2	12	21	35	20
Supermarine	19	4	5	10	21	38	17
Hemel Hemp	20	3	7	10	16	31	16
Cirencester T	21	3	6	12	20	36	15

BANBURY took revenge for a 3-1 away drubbing at Barwell with a comfortable 3-0 win against the Premier Division's highest scorers at Spencer Stadium.

Goals from Ben Polk, Dan Chilton and Ricky Johnson sealed victory for Ady Fuller's side and ended a run of two defeats.

Banbury were quickly into their stride, with Johnson seeing his shot hit a post with keeper Liam Castle rooted to the spot.

Minutes later, a cross from Glenn Walker found Aaron Woodley, but he failed to get a clean connection, and Castle gathered.

But they kept up the pressure and were rewarded when they took the lead just after the half-hour mark.

Polk cut in from the left and let fly from all of 30 yards, with the ball flying under Castle and into the corner of the net.

Five minutes later, the Puritans doubled their advantage. Castle failed

■ **Banbury Utd** 3
(Polk 33, Chilton 38 Johnson 77)
■ **Barwell** 0

to hold Nick Kingston's corner and Chilton poked home his first Banbury goal over the line.

Two minutes before half-time, Johnson's diving header from a Kingston cross crashed against the bar.

In the second half, Barwell tried to get back in the game, but Banbury's rearguard held firm.

Johnson sealed victory with a 20-yard strike – his first league goal for Banbury.

Substitute Danny Edmond then had a goal disallowed for offside as Banbury cruised in.

Banbury Utd: Kemp, Coleman, Kinch, Dolman, Chilton, Polk, Kingston, Cole (Richardson 82), Johnson (Blake 86), Woodley (Edmond 78), Walker. Sub not used. Thackeray.

Attendance: 193.



ABOVE: Manager Ady Fuller

LEFT: Ben Polk pictured in action



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Ex-boxer is fired up to kick off Olympics

A BOXING councillor is set to help carry the Olympic torch from Oxford to Reading when the iconic flame tours Britain next year.

Banbury Town Council member Dave Earle will be among the 8,000 runners set to carry the torch from Land's End to the Olympic Stadium, London.

Conditional offers have been made to people with "exceptional stories" and will be confirmed by March for the May to July run.

Mr Earle runs Banbury's Spit 'n' Sawdust gym in North Bar Street and was nominated by a cousin for his sport work with youngsters, including visits to schools and colleges.

The Conservative councillor said: "I am delighted.

"I run my own gym, I have been a boxer since I was young and I have been watching the Olympics forever.

"I always wanted to be in the Olympics and never thought I would be doing it this way."

He said: "My children all plays sports, my three boys play football, my dad was a professional boxer, I did kickboxing for years so I have always been sports mad. It is what I do."

The exact part of the route Mr Earle will run has yet to be confirmed when the relay vis-

By Oliver Evans

its the county on Tuesday, July 10, and Wednesday, July 11.

Mr Earle, a Neithrop Town Council councillor for four years, said: "I don't normally suffer nerves, I am excited more than nervous. "It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, it will never happen again."

Yet he said the demands of the gym meant he would have to snatch glimpses at all the action at the games, which runs from July 27 to August 12.

Mr Earle, who was twice British full-contact kickboxing champion, said: "The 100m sprint is the favourite event of many, it is short and explosive.

"I will watch anything, from the cross country running to skiing in the Winter Olympics."

The one mile run should prove no problem, he said, adding: "I am as fit as I was when I was 21."

Mr Earle said he believed passionately in the motivating power of sport to transform lives.

The 47-year-old Ruscombe Avenue resident said: "I thrive on changing lives, not just kids' but adults' as well."

Town council leader Kieron Mallon said: "It would be a great accolade for the town for Dave to carry the torch.

"He has been an ambas-



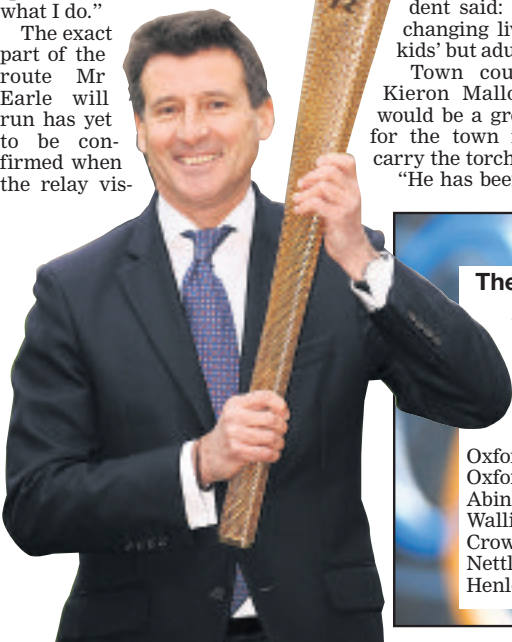
Boxing councillor Dave Earle was selected for the torch-bearing honour

sador for sport and deserves this honour."

A free event will be held in South Park, Oxford on the evening of July 9.

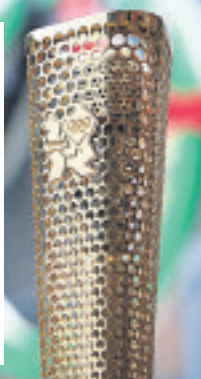
The route will take in Blackbird Leys, starting at the Mini plant and Cowley Road that day.

Torch-bearers will be waved off from Iffley Road running track by four-minute-mile legend Sir Roger Bannister the following morning.



The Olympic route

Waddesdon (Monday July 9)
Bicester
Kirtlington
Woodstock
Kidlington
Oxford (Evening celebration)
Oxford (Tuesday, July 10)
Abingdon
Wallingford
Crowmarsh Gifford
Nettlebed
Henley-on-Thames



Tributes to a community servant

FORMER Cherwell district councillor Eric Heath, who represented Bloxham and Bodicote and was on the council for 11 years, has died.

Colleagues yesterday paid tribute to a gentleman who was a "great community servant".

Leader Barry Wood said: "Eric was a great servant of the community and a great servant to this council having been its

chairman and a member of its executive committee.

"I'm am going to miss his sage advice and counsel."

Leader of the opposition Les Sibley said: "He was a real gentleman in everything he did, was always prepared to listen and give sound advice based on his many years experience as an elected representative.

"Eric proved a great ambas-

sador during his term of office as chairman of Cherwell District Council and as councillor for Bloxham and Bodicote. He will be sorely missed by us all."

Mr Heath was a council chairman, member of its executive, chairman of the licensing committee and served on the planning and standards committee, and the performance-related pay and appeals panel.

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Audi A4 Convertible 3.0 Quattro Sport, 2004, Metallic Blue, 63000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, air con	£6499
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Jaguar XJ 3.0 V6 Sovereign Auto, 2006/56, Metallic Grey, 60000 mls, sat nav, alloys, CD, electric seats, air con, cruise, memory, mirrors, seats, and steering wheel	£10999
Ford	
Ford Street Ka Convertible, 2005/55, Metallic Grey, 34000 mls, alloys, CD, r/lock, fogs, radio stereo	£4299
Ford Street Ka 1.6 Convertible, 2005, Metallic Green, 36000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, e/windows, fogs	£4299
Ford Street Ka 1.6 Convertible, 2005/55, Metallic Silver, 52000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, hard top, r/lock, radio stereo	£4499
Honda	
Honda CR-V 2.0 I V-Tec Sport 5dr, 2005, Metallic Blue, 44000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, roof rails	£7999
Honda Civic Type S GT 2008/58, Metallic Bronze, 35000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock, cruise	£8699
Honda Civic 1.8i VTEC SE Auto, 2007/56, Metallic Silver, 12000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD	£7999
Honda Accord 2.0 EX Estate, 2006/55, Metallic Blue, 60000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£5699
Hyundai	
Hyundai Tuscon 2.0 GSI, 2006, Brilliant Black, 56000 mls, air con, alloys, tints, CD, r/lock, tilt wheel	£5699
Hyundai Santa FE 2.2 GSI, 2006, Brilliant Black, 53000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, e/win, e/mirrors	£9999
Hyundai Coupe SIII 2.0 Coupe, 2008/58, Metallic Silver, 33000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD	£7499
Kia	
Kia Sportage 2.0 XS Station Wagon, 2007/57, Brilliant Black, 40000 mls, leather, alloys, air con, CD, r/lock	£8699
Landrover	
Landrover Freelander 2.0 TD4 Sport Auto 3dr, 2005, Brilliant Black, 74000 mls, leather, alloys, CD	£6999
Mitsubishi	
Mitsubishi L200 4-Life Diesel Pickup, 2003, Black/Silver, 59000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, crew cab	£5999
Mazda	
Mazda 5 1.8 TS 2 MPV, 2008/58, Metallic Silver, 18000 mls, air con, CD, 7 seats, r/lock, alloys, fogs	£7899

Mercedes	
Mercedes A Class 150 Elegance Se Auto, 2005, Metallic Silver, 19000 mls, air con, CD, m/f wheel, alloys, e/windows, mirrors, folding seats	£7499
Mercedes Benz C180 K Auto Avantgarde SE, 2006, Metallic Silver, 46000 mls, climate, leather, alloys, rear rests, CD, r/lock, e/windows, fogs	£8499
Mercedes C180 K Saloon Auto, 2005/55, Metallic Silver, 31000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£7499
Mercedes C350 Elegance Auto, 2006, Brilliant Black, 9000 mls, cruise, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, rear rests, speed limiter	£10999
Mercedes C180 Auto Avantgarde Se Est, 2007, Metallic Silver, 32000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise, roof rails, r/lock, folding seats	£9799
Mercedes C200 2.1 CDI Elegance SE Auto, 2004/54, Metallic Silver, 66000 mls, leather, cruise, alloys, CD, r/lock, fogs, e/seats	£7499
Mercedes Benz C180 Kompressor Avantgarde Auto, 2007, Metallic Silver, 56000 mls, air con, CD, cruise, alloys, leather, r/lock	£8499
Mercedes Benz CLK 2.6 240 Elegance Coupe Auto, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 69000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock, cruise control, e/windows, mirrors	£6899
Mercedes CLK 320 Elegance Auto Convertible, 2002/52, Metallic Silver, 76000 mls, leather, air con, electric roof, alloys, CD player	£6999
Mercedes CLK 2.7 CDI Avantgarde Coupe Auto, 2005/55, Metallic Silver, 41000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, cruise control, air con, r/lock	£9999
Mercedes CLK 240 Elegance Auto Coupe, 2002/52, Metallic Silver, 38000 mls, leather, alloys, air con, CD, r/lock, cruise control, speed limiter	£6499
Mercedes CLK 240 2.6 Coupe Auto Avantgarde, 2004, Metallic Silver, 53000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock	£6899
Mercedes E270 CDI Avantgarde Auto 2003/53, Brilliant Black, 56000 mls, climate control, alloys, CD player, PDC, rear rests, leather, pan roof	£9399
Mercedes E320 CDI Avantgarde Auto, 2003, Metallic Silver, 50000 mls, 1 owner, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, CD, r/lock	£8499
Mercedes SLK 230 Kompressor 1999, Metallic Silver, 74000 mls, leather, electric roof, CD player, Air con	£5399
Mercedes SLK 200 Kompressor Auto, 2004, Metallic Silver, 53000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, e/roof	£8399
Mercedes Benz SLK 200 Kompressor Auto, 2003, Metallic Silver, 29000 mls, leather, alloys, e/roof, r/lock, CD player, tilt wheel	£8399
Mercedes Benz SLK 1.8 200k Roadster, 2007, Metallic Blue, 70000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, cruise, r/lock, alloys, e/roof	£10999
Mercedes Benz SL 3.2 V6 Auto Convertible, 2001/Y, Metallic Silver, 59000 mls, leather, alloys, hard and soft top, air con, r/lock, CD, cruise, electric seats, fogs	£8999
Mercedes Benz CLK 200 Kompressor Elegance Auto, 2002/52, Metallic Silver, 50000 mls, leather, cruise control, speed limiter, PDC, CD player, alloys	£6999
Mercedes E320 CDI Avantgarde Auto, 2005, Metallic Silver, 48000 mls, leather, air con, electric memory seats, heated seats, cruise, alloys, PDC, 7 seats	£11999
Mercedes ML 6.2 AMG, 2007, Metallic Blue, 40000 mls, leather, sat nav, alloys, CD, cruise, electric seats body spoilers, r/lock, heated seats, cruise control	£32999
Mitsubishi	
Mitsubishi Colt CZC2 Convertible, 2007/57, Brilliant black, 18000 mls, CD, alloys, e/windows, r/lock	£5699
Nissan	
Nissan X Trail 2.0 S 5 Dr, 2004/53, Metallic Red, 71000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, roof rails	£4999
Nissan Micra 1.4 SVE Auto, 2004/54, Metallic Silver, 16000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock, air bags	£4499
Peugeot	
Peugeot 1007 Sport Diesel, 2006, Metallic Grey, 42000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock, pas, e/windows	£4399
Peugeot 206 Station Wagon 1.6 XSI, 2004/54, Metallic Sand, 20000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, e/windows	£3699
Peugeot 307 2.0 SE Cab, 2005, Metallic Silver, 62000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, e/roof, r/lock	£5299
Peugeot 307 2.0 Convertible, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 62000 mls, leather, alloys, tints, e/roof, CD	£4899
Peugeot 307 CC 2.0180 Convertible, 2005, Metallic Blue, 20000 mls, e/roof, alloys, CD, air con, r/lock	£5499
Peugeot 407 3.0 Coupe 6 Spd, 2005/55, Metallic Silver, leather, air con, h/seats, e/seats, CD, cruise	£5999
Porsche 911 Carrera S Tiptronic Coupe, 1998, Metallic Black, 83000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock	£11999
Rover	
Rover Streetwise 1.4 5 Dr Hatch, 2004, Metallic Silver, 45000 mls, CD, alloys, spoilers, r/lock	£2399
Renault	
Renault Grand Scenic VVT Dynamique Auto, 2007, Metallic Grey, 16000 mls, leather, alloys, CD	£5499
Renault Laguna DCI 180i Gt Coupe, 2009, Metallic Grey, 50000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock, e/windows, sat nav, cruise control, air con	£10999
Renault Megane Diesel 1.9 Dynamique convertible, 2006, Metallic Blue, 52000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, e/roof, air bags, fog lights	£5999
Renault Megane 1.6 Dynamique convertible, 2006, Metallic Grey, 31000 mls, air con, CD player, alloys	£5799
Renault Megane 1.9 DCI 130 Dynamique Convertible, 2007, Metallic Silver, 40000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, electric roof, CD	£6499
Smart City Passion Softouch Auto, 2002, Metallic Silver, 21000 mls, radio stereo, alloys, c/lock	£2999
Saab	
Saab 9.3 1.9 Diesel Vector Auto Sport, 2007, Metallic Silver, 38000 mls, leather, CD, alloys, cruise	£7899
Saab 9.3 2.0 Vector Convertible, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 35000 mls, air con, leather, r/lock, electric roof,	£6999
Saab 9.5 Vector Sport T 2.0 Auto, 2005/55, Metallic Grey, 32000 mls, climate control, r/lock, alloys rear rests, cup holders, storage pack	£4999
Saab 9.3 1.8 T Vector, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 32000 mls, Air Con, Alloys, R/lock, CD, Air Bags, M/F Wheel	£5299
Skoda	
Skoda Octavia Auto Diesel Elegance, 2005/55, Metallic Mink, 61000 mls, air con, CD, alloys, r/lock	£6299
Suzuki	
Suzuki Grand Vitara 5dr Estate 1.6V, 2006, Metallic Silver, 60000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock,	£6499
Toyota	
Toyota Rav 4 XT3, 5 Dr, 2004, 36000 mls, Metallic Red/Grey, air con, alloys, sunroof, wheel cover	£7499
Toyota Corolla 1.6 VVTi T Spirit 5 Dr Auto, 2006, Brilliant Red, 42000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, sat nav, aluminium pack	£6199
Toyota Verso 2.2 D-4D 7 Seater, 2008, Metallic Grey, 55000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, roof rails, folding seats, fogs	£8699
Vauxhall	
Vauxhall Vectra Elite V6 Turbo 2.8 Auto, 2006, Metallic Silver, 37000 mls, leather, climate, alloys, CD, e/windows, r/lock, tints, cruise	£5199
Vauxhall Zafira 1.9 CDTi Elite MPV, 2010, Metallic Black, 28000 mls, leather, CD, air con, alloys	£10499
Vauxhall Zafira 1.8 SRI MPV, 2007, Brilliant Black, 36000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock, tints, 7 seats	£6499
Vauxhall Tigra 1.8 Exclusive convertible, 2006/56, brilliant black, 52000 mls, e/roof, air con, aluminium pack	£5899
Vauxhall Tigra 1.8 Sport Convertible, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 55000 mls, leather, air con, electric roof, r/lock, alloys	£4699
Vauxhall Astra 1.6 Twin Top Convertible, 2007/57, Metallic Silver, 23000 mls, air con, electric roof, alloys, fogs	£7399
Volkswagen	
Volkswagen Phaeon 3.0 Diesel V6 4 Motion, 2008/58, Brilliant Black, 53000 mls, leather, CD, e/seats, folding mirrors, cruise control, heated seats, m/f wheel, alloys	£15999
Volkswagen Polo 1.4 5 Dr Auto, 2003, Metallic Silver, 20000 mls, air con, electric windows, c/lock	£4299
Volvo	
Volvo S60 2.0T SE, 2006, Metallic Silver, 42000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock, fogs, air con, alloys	£6499
Volvo S80 2.8 T6 SE Geartronic, 2001/51, 45000 mls, leather, climate, alloys, tints, r/CD player, rear head rests	£3399
Volvo C70 Se Geartronic convertible Auto, 2006, Metallic Silver, 33000 mls, leather, e/roof, memory seats, air conditioning, CD player, alloys, ABS, pas, cruise control	£9999
Volvo C70 2.0 Convertible, 2005, Metallic Grey, 72000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, e/roof, r/lock, tilt wheel	£4899
Volvo V50 D Se Estate, 2005/55, Metallic Blue, 64000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, roof rails, r/lock	£7899

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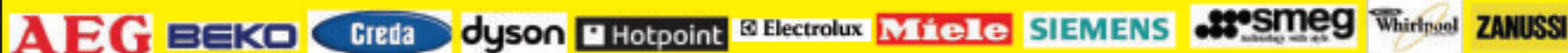
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